Numb. 139

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

——— *Nihil eſt quod credere de ſe*
Non poſſit, cum laudatur Diis æqua Poteſtas. Juv.

From *Saturday February* 25. to *Tueſday February* 28. 1709.

Sheer-Lane, February 27.

WHEN I reflect upon the many Nights I have ſat up for ſome Months laſt paſt in the greateſt Anxiety for the Good of my Neighbours and Contemporaries, it is no ſmall Diſcouragement to me, to ſee how ſlow a Progreſs I make in the Reformation of the World. But indeed I muſt do my Female Readers the Juſtice to own, that their tender Hearts are much more ſuſceptible of good Impreſſions, than the Minds of the other Sex. Buſineſs and Ambition take up Men's Thoughts too much to leave Room for Philoſophy: But if you ſpeak to Women in a Style and Manner proper to approach them, they never fail to improve by your Counſel. I ſhall therefore for the future turn my Thoughts more particularly to their Service, and ſtudy the beſt Methods to adorn their Perſons, and inform their Minds in the juſteſt Methods to make them what Nature deſigned them, the moſt beauteous Objects of our Eyes, and the moſt agreeable Companions of our Lives. But when I ſay this, I muſt not omit at the ſame Time to look into their Errors and Miſtakes, that being the readieſt Way to the intended End of adorning and inſtructing them. It muſt be acknowledged, That the very Inadvertencies of this Sex are owing to the other; for if Men were not Flatterers, Women could not fall into that general Cauſe of all their Follies, and our Misfortunes, their Love of Flattery. Were the Commendation of theſe agreeable Creatures built upon its proper Foundation, the higher we raiſed their Opinion of themſelves, the greater would be the Advantage to our Sex; but all the Topick of Praiſe is drawn from very ſenſeleſs and extravagant Idea's we pretend we have of their Beauty and Perfection. Thus when a young Man falls in Love with a young Woman, from that Moment ſhe is no more Mrs. *Alice* ſuch a one, born of ſuch a Father, and educated by ſuch a Mother; but from the firſt Minute that he caſt his Eye upon her with Deſire, he conceives a Doubt in his Mind, What Heavenly Power gave ſo unexpected a Blow to an Heart that was ever before untouched. But who can reſiſt Fate and Deſtiny, which are lodged in Mrs. *Alice*'s Eyes? After which he deſires Orders accordingly, Whether he is to live or breath; the Smile or Frown of his Goddeſs is the only thing that can now either ſave or deſtroy him. By this Means, the well-humoured Girl, that would have romped with him before ſhe received this Declaration, aſſumes a State ſuitable to the Majeſty he has given her, and treats him as the Vaſſal he calls himſelf. The Girl's Head is immediately turned by having the Power of Life and Death, and takes Care to ſuit every Motion and Air to her new Sovereignty. After he has placed himſelf at this Diſtance, he muſt never hope to recover his former Familiarity, till ſhe has had the Addreſſes of another, and found them leſs ſincere.

If the Application to Women were juſtly turned, the Addreſs of Flattery, tho' it implied at the ſame Time an Admonition, would be much more likely to ſucceed. Should a captivated Lover, in a Billet, let his Miſtreſs know, That her Piety to her Parents, her Gentleneſs of Behaviour, her prudent Oeconomy with reſpect to her own little Affairs in a Virgin Condition, had improved the Paſſion which her Beauty had inſpired him with, into ſo ſettled an Eſteem for her, that of all Women breathing he wiſhed her his Wife; tho' his commending her for Qualities ſhe knew ſhe had as a Virgin, would make her believe you expected from her an anſwerable Conduct in the Character of a Matron: I will anſwer for it, his Suit would be carried on with leſs Perplexity.

Inſtead of this, the Generality of our young Women, taking all their Notions of Life from gay Writings, or Letters of Love, conſider themſelves as Goddeſſes, Nymphs, and Shepherdeſſes.

By this Romantick Senſe of Things, all the natural Relations and Duties of Life are forgotten, and our Female Part of Mankind are bred and treated, as if they were deſigned to inhabit the happy Fields of *Arcadia*, rather than be Wives and Mothers in old *England*. It is indeed long ſince I had the Happineſs to converſe familiarly with this Sex, and therefore have been fearful of falling into the Error which recluſe Men are very ſubject to, that of giving falſe Repreſentations of the World from which they have retired, by imaginary Schemes drawn from their own Reflections. An old Man cannot eaſily gain Admittance into the Dreſſing-room of Ladies; I therefore thought it Time well ſpent, to turn over *Agrippa*, and uſe all my occult Art, to give my old Cornelian Ring the ſame Force with that of *Gyges*, which I have lately ſpoken of. By the Help of this, I went unobſerved to a Friend's Houſe of mine, and followed the Chamber-maid inviſibly about Twelve of the Clock into the Bed-chamber of the beauteous *Flavia*, his Fine Daughter, juſt before ſhe got up.

I drew the Curtains, and being wrapped up in the Safety of my old Age, could with much Pleaſure, without Paſſion, behold her ſleeping with *Waller*'s Poems, and a Letter fixed in that Part of him, where every Woman thinks her ſelf deſcribed. The Light flaſhing upon her Face, awakened her: She opened her Eyes, and her Lips too, repeating that Piece of falſe Wit in that admired Poet;

Such Helen *was, And who can blame the Boy,*
That in ſo bright a Flame conſum'd his Troy?

This

This ſhe pronounced with a moſt bewitching Sweetneſs; but after it fetched a Sigh, that methought had more Deſire than Languiſhment, then took out her Letter, and read aloud, for the Pleaſure, I ſuppoſe, of hearing ſoft Words in Praiſe of her ſelf, the following Epiſtle:

Madam,

I Sat near you at the Opera laſt Night; but knew no Entertainment from the vain Show and Noiſe about me, while I waited wholly intent upon the Motion of your Bright Eyes, in Hopes of a Glance, that might reſtore me to the Pleaſures of Sight and Hearing in the Midſt of Beauty and Harmony. It is ſaid, the Hell of the Accurſed in the next Life, ariſes from an Incapacity to partake the Joys of the Bleſſed, tho' they were to be admitted to them. Such I am ſure was my Condition all this Evening; and if you, my Deity, cannot have ſo much Mercy, as to make me by your Influence capable of taſting the Satisfactions of Life, my Being is ended, which conſiſted only in your Favour.

The Letter was hardly read over, when ſhe ruſh'd out of Bed in her Wrapping-Gown, and conſulted her Glaſs for the Truth of his Paſſion. She raiſed her Head, and turned it to a Profile, repeating the laſt Lines, *My Being is ended, which conſiſted only in your Favour.* The Goddeſs immediately called her Maid, and fell to dreſſing that miſchievous Face of hers, without any Manner of Conſideration for the Mortal who had offered up his Petition. Nay, it was ſo far otherwiſe, that the whole Time of her Woman's combing her Hair was ſpent in Diſcourſe of the Impertinence of his Paſſion, and ended, in declaring a Reſolution, if ſhe ever had him, to make him wait. She alſo frankly told the Favourite Gipſy that was prating to her, that her paſſionate Lover had put it out of her Power to be civil to him, if ſhe were inclined to it; for (ſaid ſhe) if I am thus Cœleſtial to my Lover, he will certainly ſo far think himſelf diſappointed, as I grow into the Familiarity and Form of a mortal Woman.

I came away as I went in, without ſtaying for other Remarks than what confirmed me in the Opinion, That it is from the Notions the Men inſpire them with, that the Women are ſo fantaſtical in the Value of themſelves. This imaginary Pre-eminence which is given to the Fair Sex, is not only form'd from the Addreſſes of People of Condition; but it is the Faſhion and Humour of all Orders to go regularly out of their Wits, as ſoon as they begin to make Love. I know at this Time Three Goddeſſes in the *New-Exchange*; and there are Two Shepherdeſſes that ſell Gloves in *Weſtminſter-Hall*.

The learned and ingenious Mr. Joſhua Barnes, *has lately writ an* Eulogium *(after the Manner of us learned Men to each other) upon me; and after having made me his Compliments in the Behalf of his beloved* Homer, *and thanked me for the Juſtice I have done him in the Table of Fame, has deſired me to recommend the following Advertiſement.*

⁂ Whereas Mr. Joſhua Barnes, B. D. Her Majeſty's Greek Profeſſor in the Univerſity of Cambridge, hath ſome Time ſince publiſhed Propoſals for printing a new and accurate Edition of all Homer's Works, enlarged, corrected and amended, by the Help of antient MSS. the beſt Editions, Scholiographers, &c. Theſe are to certifie, That the Iliad and Odyſſea are now both actually printed off, only a ſmall Part of the Hymns, other Poems, and Fragments remaining, with the Indexes, Life of Homer, and Prolegomena, which are carried on with all poſſible Expedition. All Gentlemen therefore, Scholars, and Maſters of great Schools, that are willing to reap the Benefit of Subſcription, being ten Shillings down, and on Delivery of the two Volumes in Sheets twenty Shillings more, are deſired to make their firſt Payment to the ſaid Mr. Barnes, now lodging at the Printing Houſe in Cambridge, before the end of March, after which Time no more ſingle Subſcriptions to be admitted.

Advertiſements.

William Weſt, Mercer, lately Partner with George Nooſe and William Olwin, at the Peacock in the New-Exchange, is removed to the Black-Moor's Head in that Exchange, in the ſame Walk, and Partner with Robert Sutton.

⁂ PROPOSALS for Printing the LUCUBRATIONS of Iſaac Bickerſtaff Eſq; by Subſcriptions, in Two Volumes in Octavo, on a Large Character, and Fine Royal Paper, are to be ſeen, and Subſcriptions taken, at Charles Lillie's, a Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford Buildings in the Strand, and John Morphew's near Stationers-Hall. All Perſons that deſign to ſubſcribe to this Work, are deſired to ſend their Subſcriptions with all Expedition, the Book being this Day put to Preſs, in order to have it publiſhed before Eaſter.

ON Wedneſday the 8th of March next, in the Great Room in York-Buildings, will be performed a Conſort of Vocal and Inſtrumental Muſick, by the beſt Performers, for the Benefit of Mrs. A. Bradſhaw. Tickets are to be had at Charles Lillie's, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, at 5s. per Ticket. N. B. It being Lent, there will be no Play that Night.

MEn's Morning-Gowns, of rich Silks, Stuffs, Calicoes, &c. (being the Goods of a Perſon that failed) to be diſpoſed of at very low Rates; may be ſeen at the Olive-Tree and Still within three Doors of Young Man's Coffee-houſe, againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs. The Prices being ſet on each Gown. Catalogues of the Particulars may be had at the Place of Sale.

⁂ There is juſt publiſhed, Legal Proviſions for the Poor; Or, A Treatiſe of the Common and Statute Laws concerning the Poor, either as to Relief, Settlement, or Puniſhment. Being a methodical Guide for Juſtices of Peace, Church-wardens, and Overſeers. Wherein are explained, all the Statutes relating to that Subject; with the ancient and modern Law-Caſes and Reſolutions of the Judges: And many Precedents proper for ſuch a Treatiſe. In 12mo. By S. C. of the Inner-Temple, Eſq; Printed for J. Walthoe in the Temple-Cloyſters.

⁂ Sir Cyrill Wich's Library continues to be ſold every Evening at Exeter-Exchange in the Strand, beginning at 5 of the Clock exactly. Catalogues are ſold at 6 d. each by E. Curll againſt St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleet-ſtreet, and R. Smith at his Warehouſe, the Place of Sale. Beginning to Night at the 19th Page, viz. the Greek and Latin Hiſtorians.

⁂ The Committee; or the Faithful Iriſhman, A Comedy; as it was acted at the Theatre-Royal, by Her Majeſty's Servants. Written by the Honourable Sir Robert Howard. Printed for M. Hawkins at the Angel in St. Paul's Church-yard.

⁂ A new Set of Maps of two Sheets of Imperial Paper, with curious Ornaments, and 3 new Sizes of Globes, either of 16 Inches Diameter, 12, or 3, for the Pocket, the Heavens laid down from the Obſervations of Mr. Halley, Profeſſor of Geometry at Oxon. and Mr. Heuelius of Dantzick, and have 19 Conſtellations more than any other hitherto publiſhed. Done by J. Senex, and C. Price. Theſe, with moſt other Maps, and all Sorts of Mathematical Inſtruments, and many other Curioſities, are ſold by T. Brandreth, and G. Wildey, at the Archimedes and Globe next the Dog Tavern in Ludgate-ſtreet, a Pair of large Globes being on the Poſt before the Door.

THeſe are to acquaint the Lovers of Art, That there is an extraordinary Collection of Italian Drawings and Prints of the moſt eminent Painters and Gravers to be ſold by Hand, the loweſt Price being ſet on the Back-ſide of each; ſo that all Gentlemen will at Sight be informed of the Value. Note, that if any Perſon has either fine Drawings, Prints, Pictures, or other Rarities, they may be diſpoſed of in the ſame Manner, paying Poundage for ſuch as are ſold. There is conſtant Attendance from 10 of the Clock in the Morning to 5 in the Afternoon, at the Houſe on the Right Hand going up to the Houſe of Lords in the Old Palace-yard, Weſtminſter.

AT the Duke of Marlborough's Head in Fleet-ſtreet near Salisbury-Court, are now to be ſeen theſe wonderful Rarities following: 1. Two Wood-Monſters taken in the Deſerts of Æthiopia, from their Heads downwards reſembling human Nature in all Parts, the Female doing ſeveral ſtrange and wonderful Actions. 2. A Picary, much admir'd by the Learned. 3. A Poſom, from the Weſt-Indies, having a falſe Belly to ſecure her young Ones from any Danger, ſhe running up a Tree and hanging by her Tail till her Enemies are gone. 4. An Egyptian Panther, ſpotted like a Leopard. 5. A Creature from the Coaſt of Brazil, a Head like a Child, Body, Legs and Arms, very ſtrange and wonderful Shapes. 6. A little black Man but 3 Foot high, 31 Years of Age, and proportionable every Way. He has been ſhewn before ſeveral Kings and Princes in Chriſtendom: Alſo his little Turky Horſe, 2 Foot odd Inches high, 12 Years old, the leaſt Man and Horſe that ever was ſeen in the World, the Horſe kept in a Box. This Collection of Wonders are all alive, and are to be ſeen from 8 in the Morning till 8 at Night, without any Loſs of Time.

THIS is to certifie, That I had a Child extremely afflicted with Pain in Breeding of Teeth, but upon Application of a Remedy prepared by Mr. Perroner, Surgeon, in Dior-ſtreet, Bloomsbury, it proved ſo great and admirable, that I cannot attribute the Safety and happy Preſervation of my Child's Life (next under God) but to the Uſe of that moſt excellent Medicine. Witneſs my Hand, W. Clarke, Perriwig-Maker, at the white Wig in Great Queen-ſtreet by Lincolns-Inn-fields. This Remedy is ſold by the Author aforeſaid, and at Mr. Alcroft's Toy-ſhop, at the Blew-Coat Boy againſt the Royal-Exchange, Cornhil, at 2 s. 6 d. per Vial, with Directions.

RIght ſuperfine Brazil Snuff, with the beſt Colour and Flavour, is to be ſold at the Perfumer's Shop, at the Gun over-againſt the Playhouſe in the Haymarket, as follows: Such who buy a Pound ſhall have it for 33 s. and but half a Pound, or a Quarter, after the Rate of 36 s. per Pound, which is but 2 s. and 3 d. per Ounce.

Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*, where *Advertiſements* are taken in.